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Avian Haven

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AVIAN HAVEN



Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center



A Few
Favorite Images
of 2017



December, 2017

Dear Friends of Avian Haven,

It's almost winter, again!

And as the year's end approaches, we recall not only the birds that have come through our doors, but also the generous support we have been given through the seasons that have passed. We can't do this work without you, whether your contribution has been money, services, supplies, or a planned estate gift.



So on behalf of the many birds whose care has been enhanced by your assistance, we would like to express appreciation by sharing images of a few of our 2017 patients.



Wings are perhaps the defining feature of birds. We love images of outstretched wings, whether in flight or in a stretch. Raptor wings are impressive!



*Great Horned
Owls*



*Red-tailed
Hawks*



Merlins



Ospreys



The delicate wings of smaller birds have a beauty all their own . . .



American Goldfinch



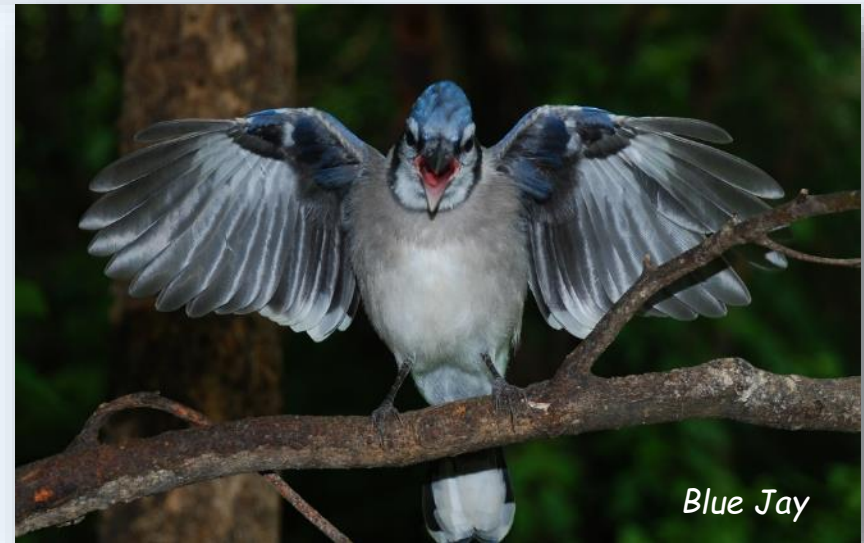
Common Tern



Barn Swallow



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Blue Jay

. . . and also come in handy for post-release food solicitation.

Many people would vote for owls if asked which birds have the most striking eyes.



Short-eared Owl



Northern Saw-whet Owls



Barred Owls



Great Horned Owls

Perhaps the people who voted for owl eyes have never seen a gannet up close!



SIDEBAR

Gannets sleep with their heads turned around and resting on their backs. Fluffed-up feathers cover their faces. In the photo to the far right, the baby-blue eye of a half-awake gannet peers through the feathers.



When it comes to bird feet, the formidable talons of raptors deserve honorable mention for grasping prey.



Great Horned Owl



Golden Eagle



Northern Goshawk



Great Blue Heron



Red-throated Loon

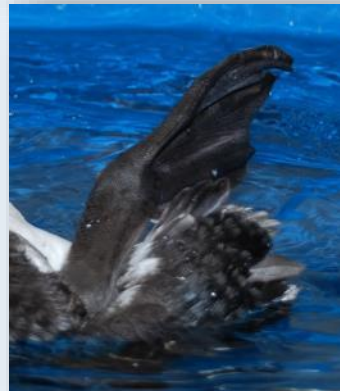


Common Loon



American Bittern

And webbed feet are a necessity for diving, as any kind of loon would be more than glad to tell you!



But let's not forget the long, thin toes of herons that enable them to walk on soft surfaces like marsh mud and vegetation.

Different beak shapes are part of what makes bird faces so interesting. Just to give a few examples, consider beaks that are specialized for

probing,



hammering,



catching fish,



cracking seed,



or for tearing up food.



Beaks of some related species can come in different colors and contours.



And then
there are
faces that
simply defy
description!

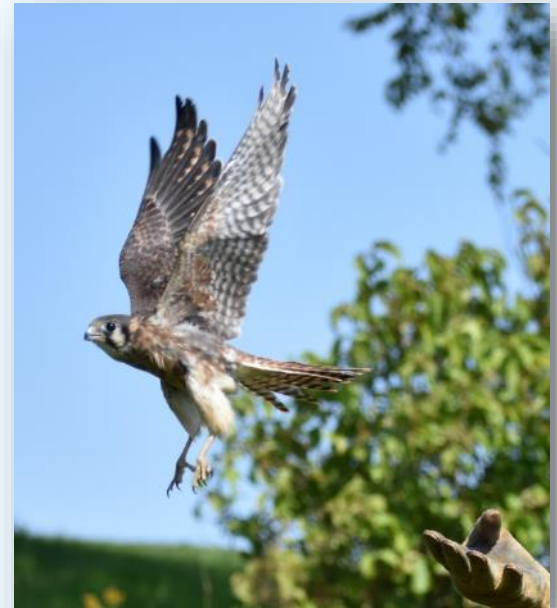


But whether birds' features are striking or bland, our favorite images are the ones that show their return to the wild. These juvenile Cedar Waxwings have just been released into a honeysuckle bush.





An American Kestrel
takes to the skies . . .



. . .and a Northern
Goshawk takes to the
woods.



Photos by Laura Suomi-Lekcer



Despite the overcast day, two seabirds are glad to return to open water:
a Northern Gannet (*above*) and a Common Eider (*below*).



Photos by Carol Jones

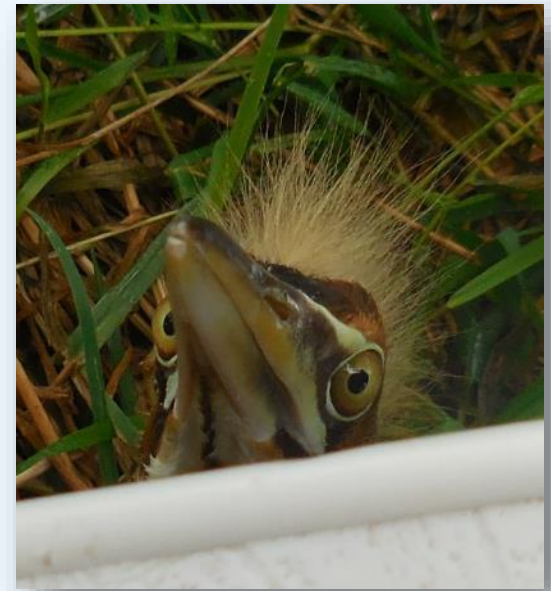


Apparently indignant at being held by Laura, a Pileated Woodpecker wastes no time in getting as far up the tree as possible before flying out of sight.





Shy and secretive by nature, an American Bittern emerges from the crate cautiously, never taking her eyes from Marc until gaining enough confidence to scurry into dense cover.



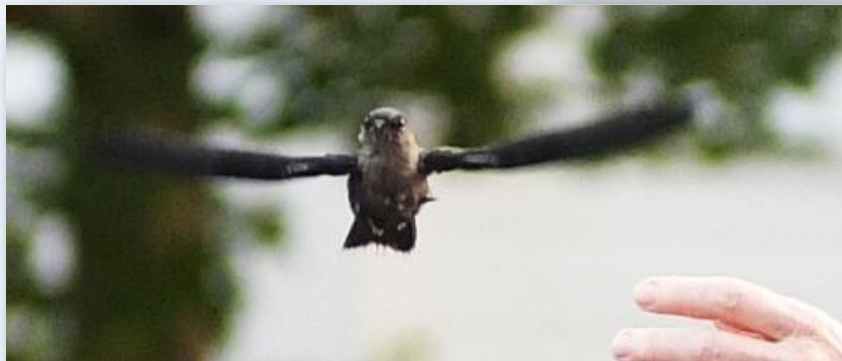
Photos by Marc Payne

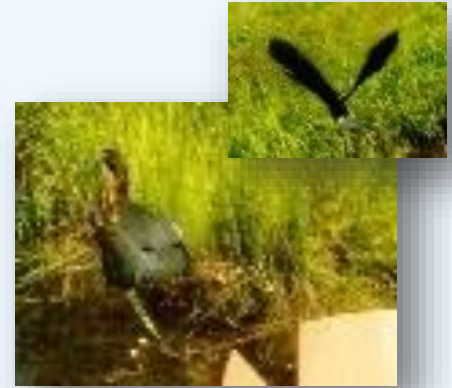


Two Merlins leave
the hands of Sue and
Laura, flying off to
hunt in a field.



While still confined in a netted travel container, Chimney Swifts are excited by the chattering of swifts overhead. They eagerly leave Diane's hand to join their new friends in the sky.





Green Herons
leave the travel
box too quickly for
anything but
blurred photos!



But once
settled in the
cover of nearby
trees, they hold
still just long
enough for
Richard to get
some in-focus
parting shots.



Photos by Richard Spinney



A fledgling
American Robin
takes his time
leaving Abby's hand!



But the young Rose-
breasted Grosbeak
flies quickly and
confidently into a
nearby tree.



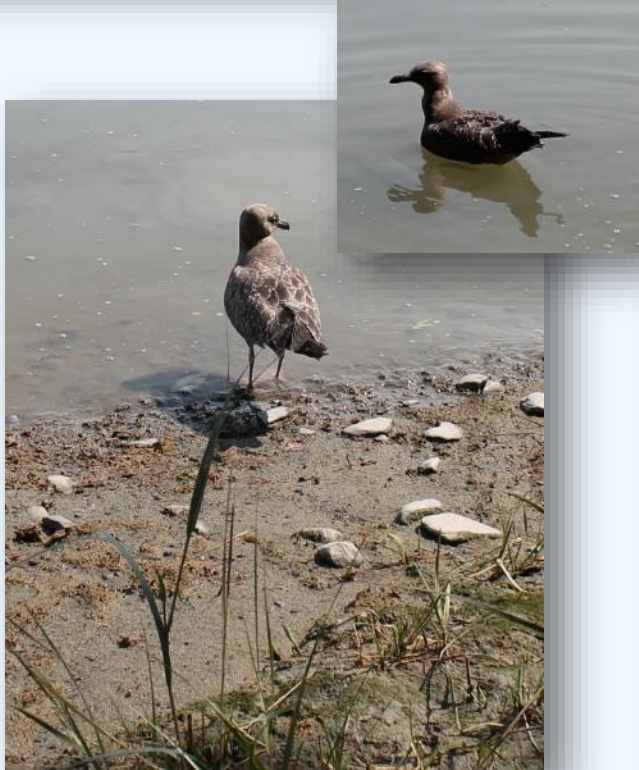


One of our orphaned Barred Owls of the year flies gracefully from Sue's hands to the cover of tall branches.





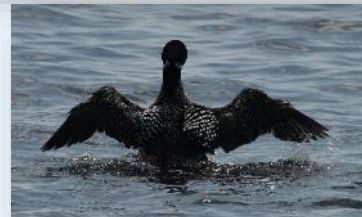
Young Herring Gulls explore the shore
and take their first swim in the sea.



Photos by Carol Jones

Photos by Karen Silverman

A Common Loon returns to coastal waters after recovering from an inland crash landing. Her contentment is evident in her flapping and roll-preening.



Opening his powerful wings, a juvenile Bald Eagle is airborne within a few seconds of leaving the crate. He is last seen soaring along a river corridor known for its abundance of fish.



Thank you for helping
to make these
moments possible!



May you have a warm,
safe, and happy winter,
and welcome in the
longer days that are
soon to come!



*With best regards and
appreciation for your support,
Diane and Marc*

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*Photos are by Glori Berry or Terry Heitz
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